



May 25, 2010 DR-1911-CA NR-03 FEMA/State News Desk: (626) 431-3910

June 2 deadline approaching to file for Public Assistance Grants from FEMA and Cal EMA for earthquake recovery

Pasadena, CA.—June 2 is the deadline for eligible Imperial County agencies, state of California agencies and certain private nonprofit organizations to submit Request for Public Assistance (RPA) forms to the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) for federal and state disaster assistance funding following the April 4 Imperial Earthquake.

Filing an RPA with the state is the first step in applying for reimbursements under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) and the Cal EMA Public Assistance Grant programs for costs and damage associated with the Easter Sunday earthquake. Agencies cannot receive reimbursement without first submitting an RPA within the prescribed deadline.

The form asks for general information that identifies the applicant and the location of the damage. After the form has been submitted, FEMA and Cal EMA representatives schedule a "Kickoff" meeting with agency officials to provide a more detailed review of the federal and state PA programs and the necessary specific recovery work for each applicant.

The federal PA funds are available to eligible Imperial County applicants as part of the May 7, 2010 presidential disaster declaration following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake. State PA funds were authorized by Governor Schwarzenegger's State of Emergency Proclamation on April 5, 2010. The temblor caused damage initially estimated at \$91.3 million in Imperial County.

The federal and state PA programs provide assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The PA program also encourages protection from future damage by providing assistance for hazard mitigation.

FEMA reimburses successful applicants for 75 percent of their eligible costs. Cal EMA covers an additional 18.75 percent of the costs incurred by city and county agencies and special districts, leaving those agencies to pay 6.25 percent.

The federal portion is paid directly to the state, which then makes disbursements to the local jurisdictions and organizations.

For forms and more information on the Public Assistance program and a contact person call Cal EMA at 626-431-3290 or 626-431-3704. The deadline to file for PA grants is June 2.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) coordinates overall state agency preparedness for, response to and recovery from major disasters. Cal EMA also maintains the State Emergency Plan, which outlines the organizational structure for state management of the response to natural and manmade disasters.

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